

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/799,940

Examiner

Edward F. Landrum

Applicant(s)

WORRICK, CHARLES B.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's remarks filed on 11/6/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 21, 22, 24 and 28-33.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other Foreign Patent.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 1-20, and 35-51 directed to inventions non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 1-20, and 35-51 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowable for defining a shaving and trimming assembly comprising a connecting member attached to a razor cartridge housing. The connecting member comprises an opening extending through the connecting member with a deflectable element defining at least a portion of the housing. The connecting member is configured to releasably connect the housing to a razor handle. The razor handle comprises a handle interconnect member including a protrusion sized to be received by the opening of the connecting member. The protrusion has an enlarged distal end and angled side surfaces extending from the distal end to a base, and the angled side surfaces having a projected apex angle of between about 45 and 60 degrees. The dimensions of the enlarged distal end of the protrusion are greater than a dimension of the opening in the connecting member such that inserting the protrusion into the opening deflects the deflectable element to secure the connecting member to the handle interconnect member.

Koeppen (German Patent No. DE3635553) teaches a shaving assembly comprising a connecting member attached to a razor cartridge housing. The connecting

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member is configured to releasably connect the razor cartridge housing to a handle.

The connecting member includes a circular deflectable element that defines an opening for a protrusion on the handle. The protrusion has an enlarged, spherical distal end greater in dimension than the opening in the connecting member such that inserting the protrusion deflects the deflectable element. Koeppen though, fails to teach the angled side surfaces of the circular protrusion having a projected apex angle between about 45 and 60 degrees.

Apprille et al (U.S Patent No. 5,956,851) teaches a shaving assembly comprising a connecting member attached to a razor cartridge housing. The connecting member is configured to releasably connect the razor cartridge housing to a handle. The connecting member includes a deflectable element that defines an opening for an angled protrusion on the handle. The distal end of the protrusion though is smaller in dimension than the opening in the connecting member such that inserting the distal end of the protrusion does not deflect the deflectable element. The deflectable element only moves when the base of protrusion enters the opening in the connecting member. Apprille et al further fails to teach the angled side surfaces of the circular protrusion having a projected apex angle between about 45 and 60 degrees.

Rozenkranc (U.S Patent No. 6,276,061) teaches a razor cartridge housing with a trimming assembly attached.

While it would have been obvious to have modified Koeppen or Apprille et al with the teaching of Rozenkranc it would be improper hindsight to modify Koeppen to make the apex angle of the protrusion between about 45 and 60 degrees, or enlarge the distal

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end of Apprille et al. Koeppen uses a circular protrusion to fit in a spherical opening and therefore cannot have an apex angle between about 45 and 60 degrees as there is no motivation to modify the enlarged protrusion to make it any other design than spherical. Modifying Apprille et al to make the protrusion have an enlarged distal end would not allow the connecting member of Apprille et al to function correctly as the distal end is designed to be smaller than the connecting member opening so it can be easily removed from the connecting member.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward F. Landrum whose telephone number is 571-272-5567. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EFL

11/17/2006



BOYER D. ASHLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER